

## THE POLYNESIAN.

"PRO BONO PUBLICO."

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The news by the late papers looks warlike. The whole political horizon of the globe appears to be in a state, which would require but a spark to light into one general war; and it will certainly require great political sagacity in rulers, joined with a strong manifestation of a desire for peace by the people, to avoid fanning these exciting causes into a fierce flame. Russia has declared war against Khiva, is assuming a threatening attitude in other quarters, and is still vigorously pushing her operations against Circassia, notwithstanding a late loss of 30,000 men, and at the same time grasping at the British dominions in the East. Egypt and Turkey are watching each other, ready to spring, but held in leash by the great powers of Europe. England is fitting out a vast armament to humble China, which will meet force by force, and thus the two greatest empires will be brought into collision. The naval jealousies between France and England appear to be increasing, while the Northeastern boundary question, between the United States and the latter power, is reviving with much mutual recrimination. Orders have been given to place the whole disposable naval force of the United States in immediate readiness for active service. Abdel Kader, at the head of the Arabs, and assisted by the Emperor of Morocco, has renewed the war against the French colony at Algiers—who have brought 50,000 troops into the field. In short, whichever way we look, we behold nations putting themselves in martial array, as if the "signs of the times" foreboded a coming contest. Those who have faith in the old maxim, that "to be prepared for war will best secure peace," can look with pleasure upon these omens, and expect quiet and prosperity. But the experience of the world has always shown, that those who carry arms are the most ready to use them.

## DISTURBANCES IN CALIFORNIA,

*And outrage committed upon the rights of Foreigners.*

We insert the following extract from a letter received by the Don Quixote, and written by an eye witness, which gives a minute account of the transaction, and of the sufferings of the prisoners.

"Early in the morning of the 7th of April, 1840, the English and Americans, residing in Upper California, were started from the peaceful manner in which they had formerly lived, by being suddenly taken from their homes and business, and hurried to prison. In the space of less than four hours there were thirty men cast into prison, nor could any foreigner imagine for what offence. In the afternoon, four or five mechanics were taken out and put into better quarters. Every day for two weeks, more English and Americans were brought into the town, and imprisoned. One night, there were over forty in one room, which was eighteen or nineteen feet square; only two-thirds of them could sleep at a time, while the others had to remain standing. No food was allowed them by government,

for three or four days. Some few received little from their friends, at first.

On the sixth day, an officer of the government, having some consideration, made a contract with a foreigner to supply them with food. The government did not furnish them with any thing to protect them from the damp ground floor of the prison, and it is probable they would have had no other bed, had not Mr. Spence persuaded the Governor to permit him to provide them with a few bullock hides. On complaint being made by the same gentleman to the government, that the men were actually suffering from want of air, he had some of them taken out and put into another room. One they liberated, because he became so faint they were afraid he would lose his life. His store was broken open during his confinement.

The whole number taken up was about seventy. A few through the influence of their friends were released, after several days confinement. Five or six of these men were called out and privately examined; what evidence they gave remains yet a secret. On the fourteenth day they were marched in two separate parties, between files of soldiers, to the Governor's house, where they were questioned "how they came into the country, and when?" All, with the exception of five, were remanded back to prison, and the next day put into irons, and embarked on board a ship chartered for the purpose of conveying them to Mexico.

Several of them were sailors. Some came here with passports. Four or five arrived here the same month in the bark Roger Williams, which left Boston in September, 1839, and was sold here. On changing owners and flag, they were paid off and discharged, one of them was the first mate. These men were put into irons and shipped off as prisoners, for causing a revolution, or being runaway sailors. One half of the number sent off had been in the country for years, and were owners of some property, all of which they had to leave behind. Care had been taken not to let them know they were to be shipped, until the morning of embarkation, when they were sent off destitute of clothing and funds.

A few of the men were well established here, and had considerable property. Some were married, and many of them had been engaged as the Governor's body guards in 1836 and '7, and after aiding him as far as was desirable, they were discharged to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. All this availed them nothing—government had been informed that about twenty foreigners had the intention of taking the country, and by questioning some who were known to have been at variance with some others, for a considerable time, and been trying to force them out of the country. They succeeded in proving the facts sought after, in a manner satisfactory to themselves, and to the astonishment of the people, both foreigners and natives."

The succeeding account of the causes of the outrage, was written and handed us by a gentleman conversant with the particulars therein detailed, and may be relied on as correct:—

"At the time of the revolution in Mexico, when Alvarado was contending for the rule of California, a person named Graham, a bold and daring man, commanded a company of fifty foreigners, and proceeded with this force to assist Alvarado and place him at the head of government, and to remain his friend and ally, provided he would grant him certain favors. This Alvarado promised to do.

While the two parties were contending for power, a man by the name of Garner, a lieutenant in G.'s company, jealous of the credit which Graham was acquiring, and aspiring to the command of his company, used every means in his power to depose Graham; but after many unsuccessful attempts, he relinquished the object of his ambition, and from that moment, became a secret enemy to Graham, and determined upon revenge. After the strife was ended and Alvarado placed at the head of government, Graham petitioned him to fulfil his promises, and grant several favors. But time passed on, without Graham's ever realizing his wishes. Garner took advantage of this moment, when Graham was incensed at the conduct of Alvarado, to consummate his revenge, by working upon the injured feelings of Graham until he wrung from him sufficient to cause his subsequent danger and imprisonment.

In March last, Garner called on Alvarado, and reported to him that Graham was holding secret meetings; and that at the head of a large party of foreigners, he was determined that Alvarado should fulfil his promises or suffer the consequences. Upon this information, orders were immediately given to arrest every foreigner in the country, and in a few days more than fifty were brought into Monterey and put into prison.

When they started to arrest Graham, Garner told them not to attempt to take him alive, but to go to his house in the night, and open the door of his room, and fire upon him while in his bed. This they did, and it is surprising that he escaped being killed. His bed clothes were much torn by the balls, and one ball wounded him slightly in the abdomen. He was finally taken and put in prison.

That there may have been talk between Graham and Garner of demanding redress from Alvarado, there can be no doubt, but that Graham ever had any intention of attempting to take possession of California, is not to be credited.

The ship sailed from Monterey for St. Barbara on the 24th April. On their arrival at St. Barbara, the prisoners were taken from the vessel and placed in the Mission of St. Barbara. Here they received much better treatment and had better food, than at Monterey. The people at St. Barbara were very much opposed to the proceedings of the authorities in Monterey, and had it not been that they are subordinate in power, and obliged to execute the orders of superiors, they would have taken no part in the affair, and no one in this quarter would have been molested. As it was but fifteen were arrested in St. Barbara.

The prisoners were to be put on board the vessel again, and she was to sail for St. Blas on the 8th of May. What their fate will be, time will show.

On Mr. J. C. Jones' arrival at Mazatlan, he found the U. S. Sloop of war, St. Louis, and French ship Denaide. He immediately called on the commanders and informed them of what was taking place when he left California, and of the probability of many foreigners being confined in prison. The vessels sailed immediately for the scene of action, and if they arrive before the convict ship sails, they may do some good, but it is doubtful if they meet the vessel on the coast."

We learn verbally, that many of the men imprisoned were of a bad character, and extremely obnoxious to the native inhabitants, and that this violence was committed to get them out of the country. Be that as it may, they were admitted into the country, on the good faith of treaties, made between Mexico and their respective governments. While they committed no overt acts of hostility, and were obedient to the laws of the nation they resided among, their persons and property were sacred. If the government is too weak, or too corrupt to enforce wholesome laws, the blame rests with itself, and not with the people; and it can afford no pretext for such high-handed violation of public faith and honor. Doubtless the American and English governments will demand ample satisfaction for these unfortunate men, and secure, by prompt and vigorous measures, better treatment hereafter. The subjects of France were allowed to remain unmolested.

From the Albion, March 9, 1840.

THE CHINESE EXPEDITION:—The Hampshire Telegraph states that "the government, though taxed with tardiness, have been most actively at work in preparing a serious demonstration against the Chinese, and that it will be vigorously made." The plan of the campaign against "the besotted celestials" is thus described. "The native army (from India) will be employed on the occasion, and not less than 16,000 will be embarked, of which a large proportion will be cavalry, horses for which force can be obtained at the Island of Hainan, at the southern extremity of that empire; and after having put the city of Canton under contribution, or destroyed it if necessary, and drawn thereby all the Chinese from the northward for the defence of their empire, they will suddenly embark, and, taking advantage of the southerly monsoon, dash to the Gulf of Petechellee, and, landing the forces at Takoo, which is within 100 miles of Peking, they will exact decency of behavior in future from the Emperor himself."

These "besotted celestials," must be either overgifted with a spirit of hospitality, or possess more of the divine influence, which would lead them when "smitten on one cheek to turn the other also," than the "foreign barbarians" have ever given them credit for, if they allow these said 16,000 Hindostanese to destroy one city of upwards of a million inhabitants, and then quietly march through their country containing a population of hundreds of millions, all imbued with a deadly hostility towards their invaders. Verily the success of their enterprise must depend upon many contingencies.

The Sulphur and Starling, surveying vessels, had visited Tahiti, whence they sailed on the 7th May, for a cruise among the Fejees—officers and crew all well.